

Senate Resolution 745

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Reed of the 35th and Seay of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Robert "Joe" Shifalo; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most unique and talented
3 citizens with the passing of Mr. Robert "Joe" Shifalo on March 22, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, a native of Florida, Mr. Shifalo journeyed to New York City in the 1960's,
5 where he befriended Dave Van Ronk and other notorious Greenwich Village folk singers
6 who inspired him and helped him perfect his musical crafts of singing, playing the guitar and
7 harmonica, and performing jug band music and blues songs; and

8 WHEREAS, an advocate of civil rights, Mr. Shifalo earned a law degree from John Marshall
9 University and fought poverty and discrimination as an attorney for Economic Opportunity
10 Atlanta and Metro Fair Housing Services; and

11 WHEREAS, while pursuing justice and equal rights in the courtroom and boardrooms, Mr.
12 Shifalo still found time for his music, recording two albums, six CDs, and performing under
13 the stage name Pig Iron; and

14 WHEREAS, known as the unofficial mayor of the Little Five Points community, Mr. Shifalo
15 was an original on-air personality for the listener supported radio station, WRFG, *Good*
16 *Morning Blues* program; and

17 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
18 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and, by the example he made of his life, he
19 made this world a better place in which to live; and

20 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Shifalo will long be remembered for
21 his social activism, beautiful music, and free-thinking attitude, and this magnificent

22 performer, advocate, neighbor, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
23 knowing him.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Robert "Joe" Shifalo and express their deepest
26 and most sincere regret at his passing.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
28 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Robert "Joe" Shifalo.